

R E M A R K S

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-9 are pending in this application. Claims 2 and 5 have been canceled. Claims 6-9 have been added. Claim 1 has been amended to further define the bead portion. Support is found in the specification at page 9, last paragraph to page 10, end of the second paragraph. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to change dependency. No new matter has been added by the above claim amendments.

Priority Document

The Examiner requests a certified copy of priority document JP 2000-168040 to perfect Applicants claim to priority. Applicants submit herewith under separate cover a certified copy of priority document JP 2000-168040.

Rejections under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 as obvious over JP 08-040026 (JP '026) in view of JP 05-024418 (JP '418). Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

The present invention is directed to a pneumatic tire comprising a pair of bead portions each with a bead core therein, a carcass comprising one ply of cords extending between the bead portions through a tread portion and sidewall portions and turned

back in each said bead portion from the axially inside to the axially outside of the tire and wound around the bead core in each said bead portion so as to form a pair of wound portions and a main portion therebetween, each said wound portion having a radially outer part extending axially inwards along the radially outer face of the bead core to have a length not less than 0.5 times the width of said radially outer face when measured along the radially outer face, each said bead portion provided between said radially outer part and the radially outer face of the bead core with an organic fiber cord layer, a distance between the carcass cords in said radially outer part and the radially outer face of the bead core being in a range of not more than 1.0 times the section height of the bead core when measured in a normal direction to the radially outer face of the bead core; wherein in each said bead portion, a reinforcing layer of cords is disposed radially outside the radially outer part so as to secure the radially outer part between the reinforcing layer and the bead core, a bead apex rubber is disposed radially outside the reinforcing layer, and a chafer rubber is disposed axially outside the bead apex rubber along an axially outer surface and bottom surface of the bead portion, and the bead apex rubber has a 100% modulus in a range of from 6.3 to 8.6 MPa, the chafer rubber has a 100% modulus in a range of from 5.4 to 8.2 MPa, and the 100% modulus of the chafer rubber is less than the 100% modulus of the bead apex.

JP '026 discloses a pneumatic tire similar to the present invention. However, JP '026 fails to disclose or suggest the following elements of the present invention: use of a chafer rubber, the 100% modulus of the chafer rubber, the 100% modulus of the bead apex, an inner rubber layer having a thickness of 0.1 to 0.6 mm and an outer rubber layer also having a thickness of 0.1 to 0.6 mm, and the recited distance between the carcass cords and the bead core.

JP '418 is relied on by the Examiner for disclosing a covering layer over the bead core. While JP '418 discloses wrapping an organic cord strip around a bead core in order to prevent the deformation of the bead core's sectional shape in the finished tire under a heavy load, JP '418 fails to disclose the above recited deficiencies in JP '026. Moreover, JP '418 fails to disclose affixing the carcass ply cords as in the present invention.

In view of the deficiencies in JP '026 and the failure of JP '418 to compensate for the lack of teachings in JP '026, Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be able to arrive at the present invention from the combination of teachings in JP '026 and JP '418. As such, Applicants submit that the obviousness rejection should be withdrawn.

✓ Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a three (3) months extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$930.00 is attached hereto.

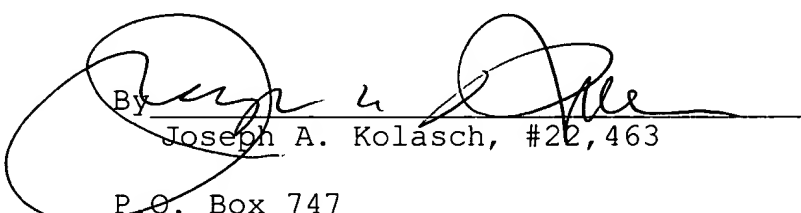
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kecia Reynolds (Reg. No. 47,021) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

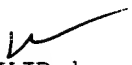
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✓
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made
Priority Document JP 2000-168040

(Rev. 02/20/02)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 2 and 5 have been canceled. (See Note Below)

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising
a pair of bead portions each with a bead core therein,
a carcass comprising one ply of cords extending between the
bead portions through a tread portion and sidewall portions and
turned back in each said bead portion from the axially inside to
the axially outside of the tire and wound around the bead core in
each said bead portion so as to form a pair of wound portions and a
main portion therebetween,

each said wound portion having a radially outer part
extending axially inwards along the radially outer face of the bead
core to have a length not less than 0.5 times the width of said
radially outer face when measured along the radially outer face,

each said bead portion provided between said radially outer
part and the radially outer face of the bead core with an organic
fiber cord layer,

a distance between the carcass cords in said radially outer
part and the radially outer face of the bead core being in a range
of ~~from 0.05~~ to not more 1.0 times the section height of the bead
core when measured in a normal direction to the radially outer face

of the bead core, wherein

in each said bead portion,

a reinforcing layer of cords is disposed radially outside the radially outer part so as to secure the radially outer part between the reinforcing layer and the bead core,

a bead apex rubber is disposed radially outside the reinforcing layer, and

a chafer rubber is disposed axially outside the bead apex rubber along an axially outer surface and bottom surface of the bead portion, and

the bead apex rubber has a 100% modulus in a range of from 6.3 to 8.6 MPa, the chafer rubber has a 100% modulus in a range of from 5.4 to 8.2 MPa, and the 100% modulus of the chafer rubber is less than the 100% modulus of the bead apex.

Claim 3. (Amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim 2 1, wherein

the cords of the reinforcing layer are laid at an angle in a range of from 0 to 45 degrees with respect to the circumferential direction of the tire.

Claim 4. (Amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim ~~2~~ 1,
wherein

the cords of the reinforcing layer are laid at an angle in a
range of from 0 to 5 degrees with respect to the circumferential
direction.

Claims 6-9 have been added.